

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended. Claim 1 is amended into allowable form as suggested by the Office Action. Claim 2 is amended for clarity. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration, as the amendments amend claim 1 into allowable form as suggested in the previous Office Action; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claim 1 contains allowable subject matter. As discussed above, Applicant has amended claim 1 to place claim 1 in condition for allowance as suggested by the Office Action.

The Office Action objects to (1) the drawings for an informality; (2) to the specification for an informality; and (3) to claim 2 for an informality. Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the drawing and specification objections by eliminating "not the deformation portion" from the claims. Applicant has amended claim 2 to correct an informality. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. As discussed above, Applicant has amended claim 1 as suggested by the Office Action, to place claim 1 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

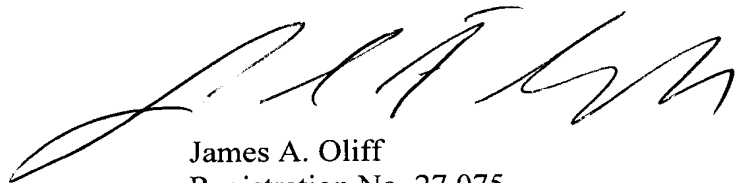
The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As discussed above, claims 1 and 2 have been amended as suggested by the Office Action and to correct an informality. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §112(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,524,664 to Scheublein. The rejection of claims 1-4 is moot in view of the amendments to claim 1 to place claim 1 in condition for allowance, as suggested by the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:LXF/tqs

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